



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

Photographer Ed Lawrence to Sign 'Kentucky 120' at Kentucky Artisan Center

Release Date
Nov. 18, 2014

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BEREA, Ky. – On Saturday, Nov. 29, photographer Ed Lawrence, of Frankfort, will sign copies of his book "Kentucky 120" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Lawrence is an artist photographer, graphic designer and publisher, and his book, "Kentucky 120," is the culmination of his 10-year quest to make landscape photographs of every county in Kentucky.

"Every day is a learning process, and I am inspired by the beauty of Kentucky's shaped and natural landscapes," he said. "No matter what season, I find myself awestruck and overwhelmed by the painterly nature of my surroundings that translate into tiny windows of visual perfection. Earth, water and sky are at the core of my work."

Lawrence purchased his first digital camera 10 years ago and began wandering the back roads of Kentucky taking photographs of the landscapes he encountered. He quickly amassed hundreds of images and in trying to organize them, began sorting them by county. From that point on, Lawrence took pictures of the county signs as he entered and crossed county lines in his travels. In this manner, he could identify the county in which each photograph was made.

"When I realized that I had photographs from 35 counties," he said, "it became a personal challenge to take photos in all of Kentucky's 120 counties. Once I met that goal, I had to determine what to do with the thousands of photographs I had."

Lawrence approached publishers about doing a book and had good response to the images and the concept – but as a graphic designer, he didn't like the idea of giving up control of the book's design. By using the new funding platform Kickstarter, Lawrence was able to design and create a county-by-county portrait of Kentucky in book form.

Each page in Lawrence's book showcases clear images without titles, words or page numbers. The photos are referenced in the back of the book in an index which includes a thumbnail of each photo by county, alongside a Kentucky map highlighting the location of that county and the date the photograph was taken.

"If a picture is worth a thousand words," Lawrence said, "this book contains at least 120,000 words."

Photographs by Ed Lawrence and his book are regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center, located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea Exit 77. The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea currently features works by more than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. Special exhibits on display include "Put a Lid on It: Containers by Kentucky Artisans," through Feb. 28, 2015; and on display in the lobby is, "Let it Snow," which includes a large Christmas tree featuring artisan ornaments and gifts. For more information about events call 859-985-5448, go to the center's website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Photos, left to right: Photographer Ed Lawrence; the cover of Lawrence's book "Kentucky 120"